

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph found on page 5, lines 16-19 with the following amended paragraph:

Yet further according to the invention the binding promoter is a complex fatty acid derived from the complete oxidation of vegetable sugars. More particularly, the binding promoter is selected from the group consisting of humic acid, ~~fulmic~~ fulvic acid, salts and mixtures thereof.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 8, lines 11-14 with the following amended paragraph:

Yet further according to the invention the binding promoter is a complex fatty acid derived from the complete oxidation of vegetable sugars. More particularly, the binding promoter is selected from the group consisting of humic acid, ~~fulmic~~ fulvic acid, salts and mixtures thereof.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, lines 21 to page 11, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Yet further according to the invention the binding promoter is a complex fatty acid derived from the complete oxidation of vegetable sugars. More particularly, the binding promoter is selected from the group consisting of humic acid, ~~fulmic~~ fulvic acid, salts and mixtures thereof.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 14, lines 10-16 with the following amended paragraph:

The binding promoter is preferably a complex fatty acid derived from the complete oxidation of vegetable sugars. More particularly, the binding promoter is selected from the

group consisting of humic acid, ~~fulmic~~ fulvic acid, salts and mixtures thereof. Another binding promoter which is added is bitumen, preferably but not exclusively in the form of an anionic bitumen emulsion. Yet another binding promoter that is added is a surfactant, preferably but not exclusively sodium dodecyl benzene.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 21 to page 16, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

It was further surprisingly found that the addition of sugars and/or complex fatty acids derived from the complete oxidation of vegetable sugars, such as humic and ~~fulmic~~ fulvic acids, salts and mixtures thereof, greatly enhances the binding properties of the binder composition. The effect of adding humic acid is illustrated in the last two Examples in this specification.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 66, line 4 with the following amended title:

HUMIC AND ~~FULMIC~~ FULVIC ACIDS

Please replace the paragraph found on page 69, lines 11-14 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention discloses the use of weak organic acids such as humic, ~~fulmic~~ fulvic, citric and acetic acids to produce a slower reaction over a much longer time (days/weeks). The chemical reaction of citric acid is also different (3-sided rather than 2-sided) which helps multi-dimensional cross linked chains to form.